

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1556

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INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP, ASCH, IR

SUBJ: GOI SUPPORT FOR TEHRAN AMERICAN SCHOOL

1. DURING PAST TWO YEARS, TEHRAN AMERICAN SCHOOL (TAS) HAS BEEN HARD PRESSED TO KEEP PACE WITH TEHRAN'S EXPANDING AMERICAN POPULATION. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT HAS JUMPED FROM SOME 1,500 STUDENTS IN 1973 TO ABOUT 2,800 IN MAY 1975. FOLLOWING APPROXIMATE FIGURES SHOW THAT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN IRANIAN MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM ACCOUNTS FOR LARGE PORTION OF SCHOOL POPULATION:

DOD ACTIVE DUTY DEPENDENTS	931
STATE DEPARTEMENT DEPENDENTS	46
RETIRED MILITARY DEPENDENTS	640
DEPENDENTS OF AMERICANS MARRIED TO IRANIANS	132
DEPENDENTS OF OTHER AMERICANS EMPLOYED IN IRAN	986

2. TO MEET TAS EXPANSION REQUIREMENTS, SCHOOL BOARD LEASED LAND IN NORTHERN QUARTER OF CITY TO CONSTRUCT NEW CAMPUS. FIRST TAFT CONTRACT (FEBRUARY 1973) INCLUDED \$550,000 TO ASSIST WITH FIANANCING OF NEW BUILDINGS. IRANIAN MILITARY WAS AT THAT TIME ALSO HELPFUL IN PUSHING THROUGH BUILDING PERMITS FOR CONSTRUC-
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TION OF NEW LEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT EXPANSION PLANS WERE INADEQUATE FOR FORECAST COMMUNITY GROWTH. EMBASSY

APPROACHED PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR CONTRIBUTION OF SOME 200,000 SQUARE METERS OF LAND ADJOINING NEW CAMPUS. AFTER NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH SEVERAL GOI MINISTRIES, LAND WORTH FOUR TO SIX MILLION DOLLARS WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY FOR SCHOOL USE.

4. SCHOOL BOARD LAST YEAR UNDERTOOK COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF LONG-TERM FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TAS AND DETERMINED THAT \$12 MILLION WOULD BE NEEDED TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HIGH SCHOOL, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR EVENTUAL SCHOOL POPULATION OF 4,500 STUDENTS. WITH AMBASSADOR'S APPROVAL, CHIEF, ARMISH/MAAG, DESCRIBED SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AND ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS TO GENERAL TOUFANIAN, VICE MINISTER OF WAR. GENERAL TOUFANIAN WAS SYMPATHETIC AND REPORTED MATTER TO THE SHAH. WITHOUT HESITATION, THE SHAH APPROVED \$12 MILLION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR TAS. CHECK FOR THAT AMOUNT HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND IS NOW ON DEPOSIT DRAWING INTEREST FOR THE SCHOOL. INTEREST MUST BE RESERVED TO FINANCE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR IRANIAN STUDENTS AT SCHOOL. UNDER TERMS OF THIS GOI OUTRIGHT GRANT, FACILITIES WILL REVERT TO GOI WHEN AMERICAN USE IS ENDED.

5. GENEROUS GOI SUPPORT FOR TAS TESTIFIES TO HIGH VALUE WHICH IRANIAN LEADERSHIP PLACES ON U.S. ASSISTANCE TO IRANIAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, PARTICULARLY MILITARY PROGRAM. GOI HAS CLEARLY TAKEN VERY PRACTICAL POSITON THAT A GOOD SCHOOL HELPS MAKE SATISFIED FAMILIES AND MORE EFFECTIVE ADVISORS AND TECHNICIANS.
MIKLOS

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